

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-40 are active. The specification has been edited as requested by the Examiner adding section headings, such as "Brief Description of the Drawings" which finds support at the bottom of page 14. Figs. 1 and 2, which were not received by the Patent Office from the International Bureau, but which are part of the original disclosure of PCT/EP04/50099, have been added as "new" figures. These figures do not introduce new matter because this U.S. application is the national-stage of that PCT. No new matter has been introduced.

The limitations of claims 16 and 17, which were not rejected, have been incorporated into the independent claims. In addition to the materials described by claim 16 (i.e., stone, concrete or plaster) the independent claims have been revised to refer to brick. Support is found in the specification on page 11, line 6. Claim 15 has been further limited to dispersions wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater than 1.5. Support is found on page 12, line 13. Claim 35 has been revised to refer to one of the surfaces specified by claim 27 and claim 36 revised to depend from claim 36. New dependent claims 37-40 are further limited to the preferred parameters for the hydrophobic particles disclosed at the bottom of page 8 and top of page 9. In view of these amendments, all claims should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this amendment and its subsequent allowance are now respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2, which form part of the PCT application are provided herewith as new figures. Accordingly, this objection is moot.

Objection--Specification

Where pertinent, section headings have been merged into the specification.
Accordingly, this objection is moot.

Prior Art Rejections


The four prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are moot in view of the amendments above.

Conclusion

This application presents allowable subject matter and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass it to issue. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned should a further discussion of the issues or claims be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

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